if any, to Coal India Limited at present.

National Power Grid

654. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have called for implementation of the concept for national grid in the power sector soon;

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take in this regard;

(c) whether Government propose to include private Sector for its implementation; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) and (b) The Government of India have accepted in principle the need for a National Power Grid. Such a Grid is an evolutionary process requiring appropriate interconnections and strengthening of the various State Systems and the Central Sector EHV transmission lines. As a step towards formation of the National Grid, Regional Electricity Boards have been set up to accelerate the process of integrated operation of the regional systems. The Central Electricity Authority is carrying out studies in regard to the transmission system needed for the ultimate formation of the National Grid.

(c) and (d) There is no proposal at present to associate the Private Sector in the development of the National Power Grid.

New Drug Policy

655. SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the new drug policy has since been formulated by Government; if so, what are the details thereof; and

(b) if the answer to (a) above be in the negative, what are the reasons for the delay and by when the policy is likely to be formulated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH): (a) and (b) The matter is still under the consideration of Government, as a number of important issues is involved.

Board to boost biogas programme

656. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a Board or Commission to develop biogas programme in order to boost its production and use; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) and (b) Commission for Additional Sources of Energy (CASE) already exists which has taken policy decisions during last two years that have boosted the biogas programme and other non-conventional energy programmes. The CASE consists of Secretary, Department of Non-conventional Energy Sources as Chairman; Secretaries of Departments of Expenditure, Power, Science & Technology, Planning Commission; Director-General of India Council of Agricultural Research and Chairman, Khadi and Village Industries Commission.

Issue of letter of intent for cement plant in Tamil Nadu

657. SHRI M. VINCENT: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an application from the Government of